

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9485
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4347

DEPT PASS TREASURY

LIBREVILLE PASS A/S BERGSTEN AND DAS WALKER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, CG
SUBJECT: VISIT OF TREASURY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGSTEN TO ZAIRE

1. TREASURY A/S SECRETARY BERGSTEN, ACCOMPANIED BY AF DAS WALKER, VISITED ZAIRE APRIL 27-29. SCHEDULE FEATURED MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA, AND WORKING SESSION ON MOBUTU PLAN WITH TEAM OF GOZ EXPERTS HEADED BY PLANNING MINISTER MULUMBA. DINNER HOSTED BY GOZ SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FINANCE WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF DONOR GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS GOZ OFFICIALS. SCHEDULE ALSO INCLUDED CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS, LUNCHEON MEETING WITH REPS OF LEADING US BUSINESSES IN KINSHASA AND VISIT TO INGA DAM COMPLEX INCLUDING INSTALLATIONS OF LARGELY US BUILT AND FINANCED INGA-SHABA POWER LINE.

2. MEETINGS WITH GOZ PRINCIPALS WERE ALL LENGTHY AND, BY
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ZAIRIAN STANDARDS, FRANK. SESSION WITH MOBUTU WAS ONE OF LONGEST ACCORDED TO A FOREIGN VISITOR WE CAN RECALL. FOCUS OF ALL DISCUSSIONS WAS MOBUTU PLAN AND STATUS OF RELATED GOZ ECONOMIC/ FINANCIAL REFORMS WITH PARTICULAR STRESS ON IMPENDING AGREEMENT WITH IMF ON NEW STABILIZATION PROGRAM. MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO COVERED STATE OF US-ZAIREIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, ZAIE'S SECURITY CONCERNS AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

FULL REPORTS ON ALL SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS BEING SENT SEPTELS.

3. AS ANTICIPATED, BERGSTEN VISIT GIVEN AMPLE MEDIA PLAY, INCLUDING PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF ARRIVAL AND MEETING WITH MOBUTU. GOZ OBVIOUSLY WELCOMED VISIT AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING US INTEREST IN ZAIRE AND SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU PLAN. MOBUTU PARTICULARLY SEEMED TO APPRECIATE VISIT AND RESPONDED WELL TO POINTS BERGSTEN MADE IN MEETING, SOME OF WHICH TOUCHED ON SENSITIVE MATTERS INCLUDING ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL REFORMS, US RESPONSE TO SECURITY CONCERNS AMONG AFRICAN MODERATES FACING SOVIET/CUBAN THREAT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.

4. AS SEEN BY EMBASSY, BEEGSTEN VISIT WAS HIGHLY USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE FROM STANDPOINT OF STRENGTHENING BILATERAL DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING AT TIME OF INCREASING GOZ DOUBTS CONCERNING US ATTITUDES AND SUPPORT. WE BELIEVE IT ALSO SERVED TO UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOZ IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORMS AND OUR ABILITY TO ASSIST ZAIRE. IN MORE IMMEDIATE SENSE, VISIT HOPEFULLY WILL ENCOURAGE GOZ TO MOVE AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY IN NEGOTIATING NEW STABILIZATION PROGRAM, THEREBY OPENING WAY FOR MEETING OF PROSPECTIVE MOBUTU PLAN DONORS IN BRUSSELS AND OTHER STEPS INCLUDING NEXT PARIS CLUB MEETING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LONDON ACCORD.

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